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A LETTER

SENT BY

Col. COBBET

FROM THE

General Council of Officers

TO

Gen. MONK.

WITH HIS

ANSVVER

To the said Letter,

Dated at *Edinburgh Octob.* 27. 1659.

Together with

A LETTER intended to have been sent from the Militia of *London*, to General *MONK*, and the Officers under his Command in *Scotland*.

London, Printed in the Year, 1659.

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Great Brit. Army. Council of Officers.

A Letter from ſome Officers at *Whitehal*, to the Commander in Chief of the Forces in *Scotland*, to be communicated to the Officers of the Army there.

Gent-lemen,

WE hold it a duty incumbent upon us, in order to the preſerving the Peace of this Commonwealth, as well as to give you ſatisfaction in an extraordinary paſſage of Providence that lately hath befallen us, which nothing but neceſſity and ſence of duty could have prevailed with us to have undertaken.

Of late, the old ſpirit of Malignancy in all parts of the Nation appeared as well in the old profeſſed Adverſaries, as Neuters and pretended friends, who, having ſworn a confederacy and ſecreſie, and fitted and prepared themſelves to have ſwallowed up the Intereſt of the good people of this Commonwealth, through the bleſſing of God were prevented in very many places; only in Cheſhire they got an head, as we preſume you have long ſince heard. Againſt which force, the Lord *Lambirt* was ſent with a Brigade, who (with the hazard of all that was dear to them) with chearfulneſs undertook that ſervice: And God having, according to his wonted kindneſs, given an iſſue to that undertaking (even when the enemy concluded of ſucceſs) The Officers there, weighing their duty in improving that ſignal mercy, and conſidering how craftily thoſe that bore to the Adverſary good-will in former times, had by fair ſpeeches, pretences and ſuggeſtions, cheated us of our hopes and expectations; and finding the diſeaſe more general than was to be ſuppoſed to be underſtood by the Patliament, did agree upon an humble Petition and Propoſals to them: with a very ſober and Chriſtian Letter, ſending the ſaid Petition and Propoſals in the ſaid Letter to the Lord *Fleetwood*, with a deſire, that if he thought it fit, it might be communicated to a General Councill of Officers for their approbation. His Lordſhip forthwith communicated the ſaid Letter and Paper to Sir *Arthur Heſilrig*, with a deſire, that himſelf, Sir *Henry Vane*, and Major *Salwey*, would give his Lordſhip a meeting, to conſider what was fit to be done therein, who promiſed to anſwer his Lordſhips deſire: But notwithſtanding in ſtead thereof, the next day the ſaid Sir *Arthur* acquainted the Houſe, (for what reaſon we know not) of the ſaid Paper, and that there was a dangerous deſign among thoſe faithful Servants of the Commonwealth. Upon which rumors were ſpread abroad of introducing a Government by a ſingle Perſon (which was directly contrary to the ſcope and deſire of the ſaid Paper) Whereupon the Houſe ordered an Admonition to be given to the Officers of the Army; and reproachful ſpeeches were frequently

quently cast up and down of sending the Lord *Lambert* to the *Tower*, and that some of the chief Officers in the said Brigade deserved to be hang'd, drawn and quartered. By all which, we clearly perceived, the design was either to divide between the Parliament and the Army, or between the Army and the good People of the Nation, or the Army within itself. Upon which the Officers here met, and agreed upon an humble Representation and Petition, which they delivered to the House, and had their Thanks, with a promise that their Proposals in the said Petition should be taken into consideration: At which General Council (to the end that nothing might be done by us, but what you might have full knowledge of) directions were given for sending the same, together with the reasons and grounds thereof sent unto you. One of which Letters being sent to Col. *Okey's* Regiment, was brought into the House by a member thereof. The House thereupon declared the Lord *Fleetwood's* Commission void, together with the Commissions of the Lord *Lambert*, Major General *Disbrow*, and seven more Field Officers. And all this was done without so much as hearing them speak one ward for themselves, or examining whether the names, subscribed to the said Letter, were the handwriting of the said Officers, and all arising upon the same matter, for which, before they had given Thanks to the Army (an ill requital for their unwearied pains for the service of this Commonwealth) And some who seemed more eager to inflict punishment upon those Officers that subdued the common Enemy, then upon the common Enemy by them subdued, had so contrived it, that the Regiment commanded by Collonel *Morley* (who, with six others, were appointed to command the Army) was brought on for the Guard of the House, six or seven Barrels of Powder laid in, together with provisions, in order to the effectual prosecution of the said Design.

So soon as the Officers had the knowledg of these proceedings, and finding all once more laid at stake, resolved to trust the Lord with the Issue, and took Armes for the preservation of the good People, and Peace of these Nations, and have put a stop to the sitting of the Parliament for the present, concluding it a betraying of that Cause and Interest, more precious then our lives, and for which we have often jeoparded us all, to suffer this Army, that God hath made the Bulwark of the Peace of the Nation, to be divided and broken, to answer the ends and designs of evil-minded men. And therefore upon the whole, Our humble request to you is, That you would not hastily judg this Action; It being our desire and design to approve our hearts to God, that our end is the Glory of God, the Peace of these Nations, and the settlement thereof in the way of a Common-wealth, without a single Person, or House of Peers. And therefore whatever reports or suggestions the Enemy may raise to the contrary; We desire you would give no place or credit thereunto. But in your several places strive to preserve the Peace, and to suppress any turbulent or discontented Spirit, or contrivance of the Enemy, under what name or appearance soever it shall show it self: In order to which the Officers here, at a General Council, have with an unanimous consent acknowledged and owned the Lord *Fleetwood*, Commander in Chief of the

Army,

Army, and declared their resolution to obey no other Orders, but what shall be given or communicated by his Lordship; and to look on those that are contrary minded, as disturbers of the Peace of the Army; and further have under consideration what may be necessary and fit, in Order to the speedy and effectual settlement of the Armies and this Common-wealth. And for your more full and clear Information in these things, We have sent you Copies of our said Representation, and Petition, and Letters, upon which the House passed the said Votes. We shall add no more, but commend you to the Lord, and desire your Prayers that God would now appear in giving wisdome and understanding, that we may know what to do, and find his presence with us in our undertakings, that the end of this may be his Glory, the comfort of those that fear the Lord, and the Peace and good settlement of this Common-wealth. For a more particular account of affairs here at present; We refer you to the bearer hereof, Col. *Cobbet*, to whom we desire you will give credit: We remain,

Your affectionate Friends

and Servants.

John Disbrow.	*Charles Fleetwood.*
Ja. Berry.	*Tho. Kelsey.*
Jo. Mason	*Jo. Duckenfield.*
Ed. Salmon.	*Jer. Camfeild.*

These for the Right Honourable General *Monck*, to be by him Communicated to the rest of the Officers of the Army in *Scotland*.

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An Answer of the Commander in Chief and Officers of the Forces in *Scotland*; To a Letter from some Officers at *White-hall*.

GENTLEMEN,

WIth how great reluctancy we put Pen to Paper against you, our sad hearts, which are still firmly united to you in the same bond of love as ever, can bear us witness; yet, that we may not be wanting in our duty to God, our Country and Posterities in a day of so great tryal as is come upon us; we are constrained to bear our Testimony against your late violent proceedings upon the Parliament of *England*; for which proceedings we confess our selves altogether ignorant of a warrantable ground (notwithstanding the account you have given us) either from Scripture, Reason, or Necessity: For, suppose the account you have given us of that Action to be impartial (which yet we think we have some ground to suspect.) We would gladly know what ground there could be of sending about your late *Petition* and *Representation*, to create Greatness and Power in Men, (a thing of dangerous consequence) after you had received the Parliaments Answer thereunto?

If you avow the Thanks of the House? We answer, Those had no relation to the matter of the *Petition*; for that they gave their sence of that before, *viz.* That it was *Dangerous, Chargeable, and Useless to make more General Officers than they had made*: Their Thanks were onely for your good expressions in the *Petition*, whereof they could not but have these especially in their consideration, *viz.* your acknowledging them the Supream Authority of these Nations, and your selves their faithfull and obedient Servants: Now by appointing a Committee to Recommend that *Petition* to all Regiments for Subscriptions, after so great a progress made in it by a few, and the Parliaments Negative sence declared of it, What could there be in design, but a stirring up the Army against the Parliament? This we cannot but take notice of, as a considerable circumstance in the management of that affair. To the matter it self of the *Petition*, we mean onely, that of appointing General Officers, we think we have just cause to declare our dislike: And we cannot but wonder, how such as have so lately escaped out of the Tyranny of an absolute Monarch, whereunto by their own too credulous inclinations they unhappily fell, should again carry so many materials for the building up of that they have so lately destroyed: The best of men, we know, are subject to many failings; and how this Army and these poor Nations have already been cheated with specious pretences, the sad Revolutions these five years last past do sufficiently evidence. No doubt many pious men were made to believe, after the former Interruption of this Parliament, That the Yoke should be

be taken off the neck of the Oppreſſed, none but Faithfull and Godly men kept in Authority, and ſundry other promiſes of like import; and no ſooner was that work done, but all the Godly in the Land were animated in their differences, many faithfull ones in the Army and Navy, and in Civil Judicatories ſhamefully removed, many precious ones ſent to loathſome Gaols, very few, ſave Court-compliers, countenanced; till our Yoke was become heavier then what our Fathers Necks had been accuſtomed to; and an Officer of the Army as contemptible and odious in the eyes of the *Honeſt Party* in *England*, as a *Janizary* at *Conſtantinople*, and ſcarcely known or diſtinguiſh: by any other title: There are living Teſtimonies among your ſelves, which, to their ſad experience, can put their Seal to theſe truths; Witneſs Lord *Lambert*, Col. *Overton*, Col. *Rich*, Col. *Okey*, Col. *Saunders*, Col. *Alured*, Col. *Packer* and his Officers, Sir *Henry Vane*, Maj. Gen. *Harriſon*, Mr. *Carew*, Quartermaſter General *Courtney*, with many others which would be too long to inſert. And is Servitude and Oppreſſion already become ſo deſirable a thing, that it muſt be courted and petitioned for? What can ſo readily create Servitude, as the contracting the Power of the Nation in ſo narrow a ſpace as a Single Perſon, or a few of any one Faction? Will not this be to Rule the reſt of the Nation with a Rod of Iron? For, can any thing but Force ſupport ſuch a Government? yea, ſuch a Force as muſt begger our ſelves and poſterities, in a very few years, even to their skins? We beſeech you lay theſe things ſincerely upon your hearts, and let not the ancient Foundation of our Liberties (we mean the Authority of Parliaments) be deſtroyed, or made contemptible: You cannot but acknowledge, that the bleſſing of God was on us in all our publick enterprizes, whileſt we ſtood by them, and as great a withdrawing of His preſence from us, when we fell from them. We were told by yours of late, that the *Malignant Party* were grown ſo high, that ſuch as were inſtrumental in bringing the King to Juſtice, and eſtabliſhing the Government in a Commonwealth, were marked out for deſtruction, and like to be expoſed to the Rage of their Enemies: We beſeech you look narrowly into your own hearts, and then tell us by whom they are ſo expoſed at this time, and what other Conſequent of it can be, but the heightning of the ſpirits of the *Malignant Party*; for the encouragement of which Intereſt, we think the wit of man could not have deviſed a more effectual mean, then the Interruption of the Parliament, wherein (by your own confeſſion) you have reſiſted the Supream Authority of the Nation, and conſequently the Ordinance of God, not to be juſtified by the higheſt neceſſity. We therefore intreat you with all earneſtneſs of ſpirit, That as you love the Intereſt of Gods People, the Peace and Liberty of theſe Nations, and the quiet of your Conſciences, when you ſhall be drawing near to the cloſe of your dayes, That you would ſpeedily invite the Members of Parliament to return to the diſcharge of their Duties, in that Freedome and Liberty in which the Supream Authority of theſe Nations ought to ſit: And we do aſſure you, that touching the Officers of the Army, upon whom their late Votes of Diſmiſſion were paſt, none ſhall interpoſe with greater vigour and zeal for the continuance of them in their Commands, and for

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an Act of Indempnity and Oblivion, then our selves: And in all other things that may conduce to the Union of the Army, and of the good People of the Land, and to the establishing the Kingdome of Christ in righteousness and peace amongst us, we will go hand in hand with you. Mean while, our Prayers to God shall be for the guidance of his Spirit both to you and us: To which good Spirit we recommend you, and remain

Edinburgh, Octob. 27. 1659.

Your affectionate Friends and Servants.

For the Right Honourable the Lord *Fleetwood*,
To be communicated to the Officers of the Army at *Whitehall*.

The Substance of a Letter intended to have been sent from the Militia of London, *to General* Monk *and the Officers under his Command in* Scotland.

GENTLEMEN,

WE understand, That you are preparing to march with an Army into England, having displaced and imprisoned several Officers of the Army of known Integrity to the Commonwealth, and appointed others in their Commands; And that you are making great and warlike Preparations hereunto; Which as things now stand, we cannot but judg very threatning to the Peace of this Nation. We observe also the general expectations of the old common Enemy growing big hereupon. Notwithstanding, we shall not take upon us to censure the Integrity of your Intentions; but having received Authority from Parliament to Suppress all Insurrections and Invations, and to preserve the Peace of our Country, and being sensible of the sad effects of such Proceedings; We think fit to present unto you our earnest desires, as you tender the Glory of God, the Peace of your Native Country, the just Interest and Liberty of the People, the guilt of much Blood like to be spilt, and the sad Consequences of another War; That you would please to set free the said Officers from their Imprisonments, restoring them to their Commands, and desist your further Acting in that kind. However, we hold our selves bound in Duty and Conscience in our Places and Capacities, to endeavor to the utmost the preservation of the Peace of our Country, as well as of this City, against all persons, that under what specious pretences soever shall disturb or Invade the same.

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